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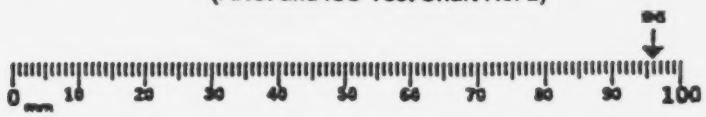

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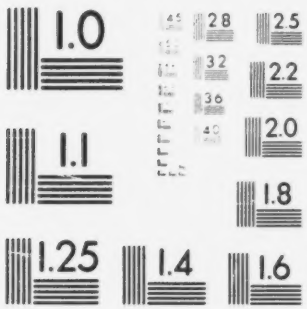

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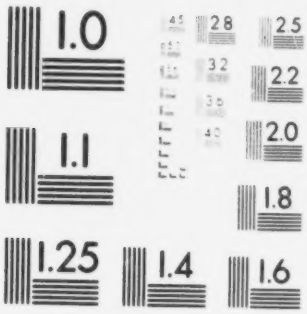

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A FIRST LOOK AT THE 2001 CENSUS OF POPULATION

1. Introduction

The first statistics available from the 2001 Census of Population were population and dwelling counts, which were released in March 2002 by Statistics Canada. These were followed in July by the publication of age and gender data. The official population count shows that there were 135,294 individuals residing on Prince Edward Island on May 15, 2001, though this number is subject to coverage adjustments to determine the actual population size[1]. This is an increase of 737 persons, or 0.5 per cent, from the 1996 Census. Over the next two years Statistics Canada will be systematically releasing a wealth of data from the 2001 Census. This paper provides a brief overview of the first census results as they pertain to Canada, the Atlantic region, the Province as well as the various regions of Prince Edward Island.

2. Population Growth in Canada

The 2001 Census recorded a population of 30,007,094 for Canada. This represents an increase of 4 per cent from the 1996 Census count. Diagram 1 shows the historical growth rates by five-year periods from 1951 to 2001 for Canada and the Atlantic region. As can be seen, the growth rate for Canada had been in a general decline from 1951-1956 to 1981-1986, experienced an upsurge in 1986-1991, and declined since.

The growth rates for Atlantic Canada have not followed the Canadian pattern and have been trending downward since 1971-1976 leading to an absolute decline between 1991 and 2001. Diagram 1 further shows that in every Census since 1951, the rate of growth for the Atlantic region has been below the national growth rate. The tendency for immigrants to locate in the large provinces as well as population movements from Atlantic Canada, are the main reasons for the lack of growth in the region.

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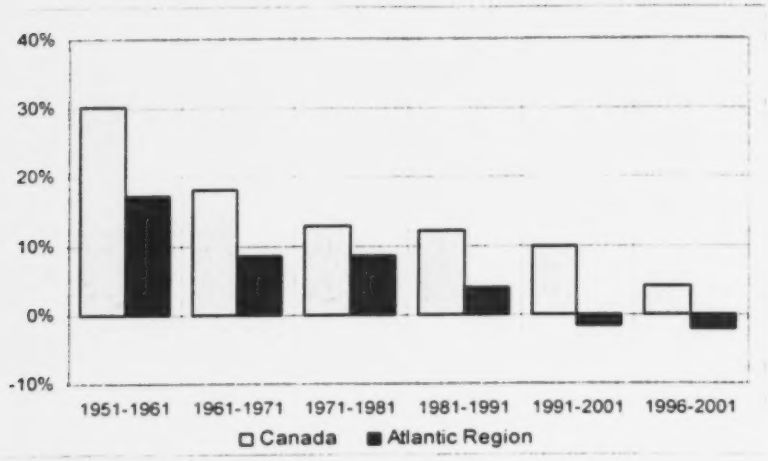
[1] The 1996 Census count for Prince Edward Island was adjusted upwards by 1.1 per cent by Statistics Canada, Demography Division. The revised estimates will be published in September 2003.

Diagram 1

HISTORICAL GROWTH RATES OF CENSUS RESULTS FOR CANADA AND THE ATLANTIC PROVINCES, 1951-2001



Source: Statistics Canada, data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

The historical growth rates for Canada and each province and territory since 1951 are listed in Table 1. The census results show that the fastest growing provinces were Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia. Overall, from 1951 to 2001 the slowest growing provinces were Saskatchewan and Prince Edward Island. The remaining provinces were below the national growth rate with Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and the two territories in absolute decline between 1996 and 2001. Growth in Alberta accelerated significantly between 1996 and 2001 compared to the period 1991-1996, whereas all other provinces experienced reduced growth. Newfoundland's 2001 population of 512,930 persons was well below the level of 522,105 reached in 1971.

Table 1

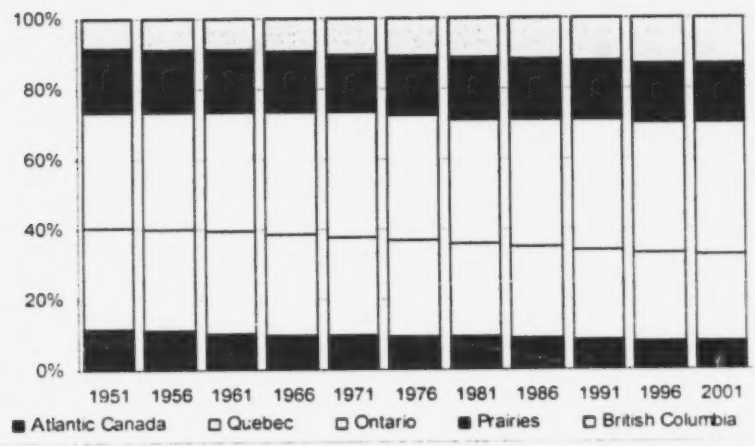
CANADA, PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES POPULATION GROWTH BETWEEN CENSUSES (in percent)

	1951-61	1961-71	1971-81	1981-91	1991-01	1996-01	1951-01
Canada	**30.2**	**18.3**	**12.9**	**12.1**	**9.9**	**4.0**	**114.2**
Newfoundland	26.7	14.0	8.7	0.1	-9.8	-7.0	41.9
P.E.I.	6.3	6.7	9.7	5.9	4.3	0.5	37.5
Nova Scotia	14.7	7.0	7.4	6.2	0.9	-0.1	41.3
New Brunswick	15.9	6.1	9.7	3.9	0.8	-1.2	41.5
Quebec	29.7	14.6	6.8	7.1	5.0	1.4	78.5
Ontario	35.6	23.5	12.0	16.9	13.1	6.1	148.2
Manitoba	18.7	7.2	3.8	6.4	2.5	0.5	44.2
Saskatchewan	11.2	0.1	4.5	2.1	-1.0	-1.1	17.7
Alberta	41.8	22.2	37.5	13.8	16.9	10.3	216.6
Brit. Columbia	39.8	34.1	25.6	19.6	19.9	5.6	237.7
Yukon	60.8	25.7	25.9	20.1	3.1	-6.8	215.2
N.W.T.& Nunavut	43.7	51.3	31.4	26.0	11.2	-0.5	300.6

Diagram 2 shows the distribution of the population for five regions of Canada (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, Prairies and British Columbia) from 1951 to 2001. The Atlantic provinces' share of the Canadian population has steadily declined from 11.6 per cent in 1951 to 7.6 per cent in 2001. Prince Edward Island's population share dropped from 0.70 per cent in 1951 to 0.47 per cent in 2001. Quebec and Ontario account for the lion's share of the Canadian population totaling 62.1 per cent in 2001. Quebec's population has declined by 4.4 percentage points from 28.9 per cent in 1951 to 24.1 per cent in 2001. Ontario's share increased from 32.8 per cent in 1951 to 38 per cent in 2001. As a result of strong growth in Alberta, the decline in the Prairie provinces' share of the Canadian population was somewhat dampened: it dropped from 18.2 per cent in 1951 to 16.9 per cent in 2001. Excluding Alberta, the combined share of Manitoba and Saskatchewan dropped from 11.5 per cent in 1951 to 7 per cent in 2001. British Columbia grew by 4.8 percentage points between 1951 and 2001 when it formed 13.1 per cent of the Canadian population.

Diagram 2

POPULATION OF THE REGIONS OF CANADA AS A PERCENTAGE OF CANADA (excluding Territories)



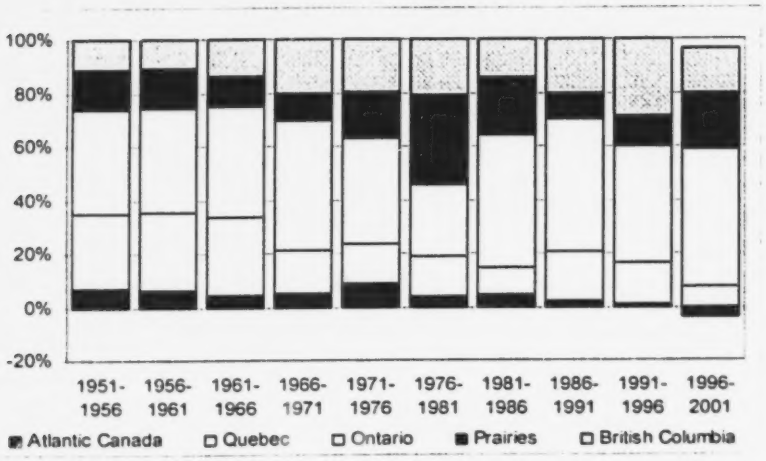
Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury

Diagram 3 shows the contribution of each region to Canadian population growth by five-year periods from 1951-1956 to 1996-2001. The contribution attributable to the Atlantic region reached its highest point between 1971 and 1976 when it was 8.7 per cent. However, between 1996 and 2001 its contribution became negative at -4.1 per cent. The major growth area for the past fifty years has been Ontario, whose annual contribution to growth averaged 41.6 per cent. The exception to this was the 1976-1981 period when the Prairies surpassed Ontario's 26.7 per cent contribution by 6.7 percentage points, mainly due to the oil boom in those years.

Between 1996 and 2001 the Canadian population grew by 1,160,335 persons. Almost 97 per cent of this growth occurred in three provinces: Ontario with 56.6 per cent, Alberta with 24.0 per cent, and British Columbia with 15.8 per cent. Of the 1,160,335 increase in total population, 656,750 were in Ontario, 278,480 were in Alberta and 183,333 were in British Columbia.

Diagram 3

REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO POPULATION GROWTH IN CANADA



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Knowing the number of births and deaths by year allows calculation of the natural increase that occurred between censuses. Population differences between censuses excluding natural increase stem principally from net migration, although errors resulting from under-coverage and definitional changes from census to census will also be included in these results. The results of these calculations are shown in Table 2 where the *Net Change* equals *Total Change* less *Natural Increase*.

Table 2

CALCULATION OF NET CHANGES BETWEEN 1991, 1996 and 2001 CENSUSES

	1991 Census – 1996 Census			1996 Census – 2001 Census		
	Total change	Natural increase	Net change	Total change	Natural increase	Net change
Canada	1,549,905	911,509	638,396	1,160,335	605,160	555,175
Newfoundland	-16,680	12,501	-29,181	-38,865	3,456	-42,321
Prince Edward Island	4,795	3,139	1,656	735	1,613	-879
Nova Scotia	9,340	18,452	-9,112	-1,280	7,222	-8,500
New Brunswick	14,230	15,851	-1,621	-8,630	7,525	-16,157
Quebec	242,835	202,220	40,615	98,685	110,085	-11,401
Ontario	668,690	356,839	311,851	656,470	250,590	405,881
Manitoba	21,955	35,932	-13,977	5,685	22,821	-17,133
Saskatchewan	1,310	29,906	-28,596	-11,305	18,709	-30,016
Alberta	151,280	124,564	26,716	277,975	101,461	176,516
British Columbia	442,425	103,641	338,784	210,005	74,734	108,519
Yukon	2,970	1,845	1,125	-2,095	1,336	-3,427
Northwest Territories	6,755	6,619	136	-300	5,608	-5,908

Data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

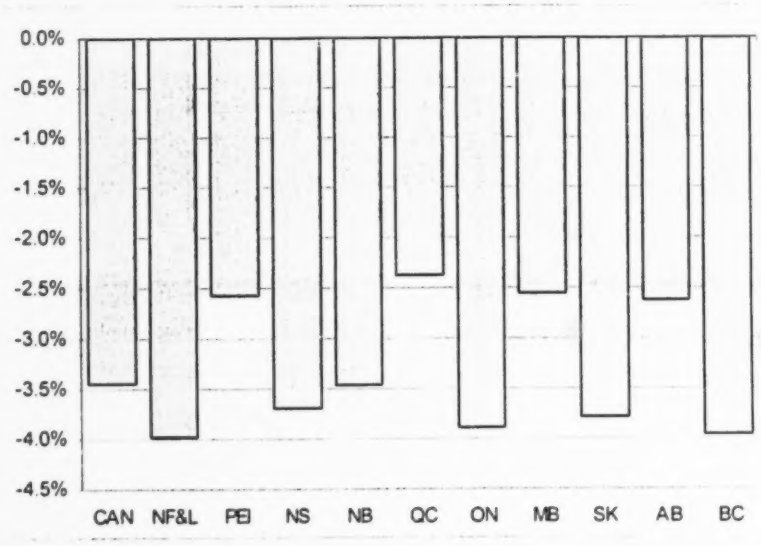
As shown in Table 2 there was a general drop in population growth between the early 1990s and 1996-2001. It can be seen that most population movement was directed towards Ontario and Alberta in 1996-2001. Population movement to Alberta increased almost six-fold between 1991-1996 and 1996-2001, while net migration to Ontario increased by 30 per cent. In 1991-1996 Quebec and Prince Edward Island showed an influx of migrants, but between 1996 and 2001 the flow was reversed. During this period the estimated loss for Prince Edward Island was 879 persons. This was in contrast to the increase experienced in 1991-1996 when the Island population increased by 1,656 persons from factors excluding natural increase.

3. Annual Estimates of Population

Although Statistics Canada conducts a Census of Population every five years, they also estimate the population for each province and territory on an annual and quarterly basis. It is interesting to compare Statistics Canada's actual census results to their estimates of population for the same time frame to see whether there are major differences. The percentage differences between the May 15, 2001 Census results and the June 1, 2001 population estimates are shown in Diagram 4. The 2001 Census count of 135,294 for Prince Edward Island is 2.6 per cent below the June 1, 2001 population estimate of 138,866, at par with Manitoba and Alberta and slightly higher than Quebec. The differences for all other provinces are significantly greater, the largest differentials being Newfoundland and British Columbia at -4 per cent.

Diagram 4

2001 CENSUS RESULTS COMPARED TO 2001 POPULATION ESTIMATES



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury

The annual estimates of population are revised after every census, taking into consideration the census count adjusted for estimated coverage errors, natural increases/decreases and net migration. The adjustment for census coverage errors by Statistics Canada takes into account net under-coverage of the census. Under-coverage refers to the number of persons who were missed in the census but should have been enumerated. This is netted against 'over-coverage' of the census, i.e. the number of persons enumerated more than once in a census.

Table 3

ESTIMATED ANNUAL POPULATION (JUNE 1)
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 1991 – 2001
(subject to revision)

	Population	Percentage change
1991 (c)	130,312	
1992	131,071	0.6
1993	132,216	0.9
1994	133,541	1.0
1995	134,706	0.9
1996 (c)	135,993	1.0
1997	136,662	0.5
1998	136,675	0.0
1999	137,754	0.8
2000	138,271	0.4
2001 (c)	138,866	0.4

(c) denotes census year

Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Table 3 shows Statistics Canada's present estimated population for Prince Edward Island with 1997 to 2001 based on the 1996 Census. These population statistics will be revised in 2003. In light of the 2001 Census results, one can anticipate a reduction in the official population estimates for Prince Edward Island and the Atlantic provinces as the 2001 estimate for Prince Edward Island is 2.6 per cent higher than the 2001 Census count, which is unlikely to be the size of the net under-coverage error.

4. Population Growth within Prince Edward Island

a) Population change by county

The 2001 Census counts for the three counties are shown in Table 4, together with 1996 results for comparison. Queens County increased by 1,189 between 1996 and 2001, while both Kings and Prince Counties lost population between those years. The Queens County growth rate of 1.7 per cent was, however, significantly less than the Canadian rate of increase.

Table 4

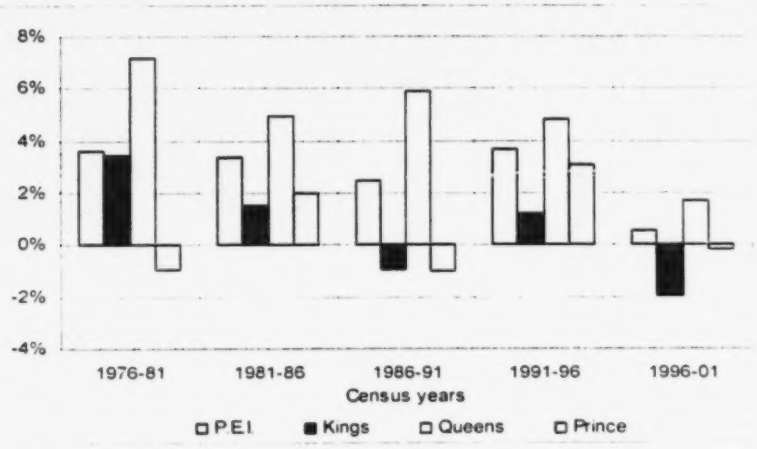
CENSUS COUNTS
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND THE COUNTIES
1991, 1996 AND 2001

				Net Gain/Loss			Percentage Growth/Decline		
	1991	1996	2001	1991-96	1996-01	1991-01	1991-96	1996-01	1991-01
P.E.I.	129,765	134,557	135,294	4,792	737	5,529	3.7	0.5	4.3
Kings County	19,328	19,561	19,180	233	-381	-148	1.2	-1.9	-0.8
Queens County	67,196	70,430	71,619	3,234	1,189	4,423	4.8	1.7	6.6
Prince County	43,241	44,566	44,495	1,325	-71	1,254	3.1	-0.2	2.9

Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Diagram 5

POPULATION GROWTH RATES
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND AND COUNTIES



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Diagram 5 shows the quinquennial population growth rates for Prince Edward Island and its three counties from 1976-1981 to 1996-2001. As can be seen the growth rate for Queens County has been consistently above the growth rate for the province and has averaged 4.9 per cent over the past twenty-five years, compared to a provincial average growth of 2.7 per cent. The growth rate for the other counties has varied a great deal over time.

Population growth declined markedly from 1996-2001 compared to previous periods. Queens County is the only county to consistently experience positive growth since the 1930s. Consequently the dominance of Queens County has steadily increased. In 1951 it contained 43.3 per cent of the Island population. In 2001 its share had become 52.9 per cent.

b) Population change by region

For the purpose of this discussion, the province has been divided into four regions and eight sub-regions. These four regions can be seen on Map 1 and correspond to the Health Regions of Prince Edward Island. Table 5 shows the population of each of these regions and sub-regions for the census years 1991, 1996 and 2001. One can see that during the period 1991-2001 the population of the Queens region increased by 6.7 per cent, closely followed by the East Prince region at 5.6 per cent. Most of this growth occurred between 1991 and 1996.

Particularly noteworthy is the case of rural Queens, where strong population growth totaled 10.5 per cent during the last ten years, making it the second highest growth region in the province. The highest, in percentage terms, was Stratford. In contrast, Charlottetown grew by only 2.2 per cent during this period due to a small population decline in 1996-2001.

In West Prince the population continued to decline: from -0.4 per cent in 1991-1996 to -2 per cent in 1996-2001. Population growth in the Kings region reversed from 2.1 per cent growth in 1991-1996 to -2.3 per cent in 1996-2001 for a ten year population decline of 0.3 per cent.

Table 5

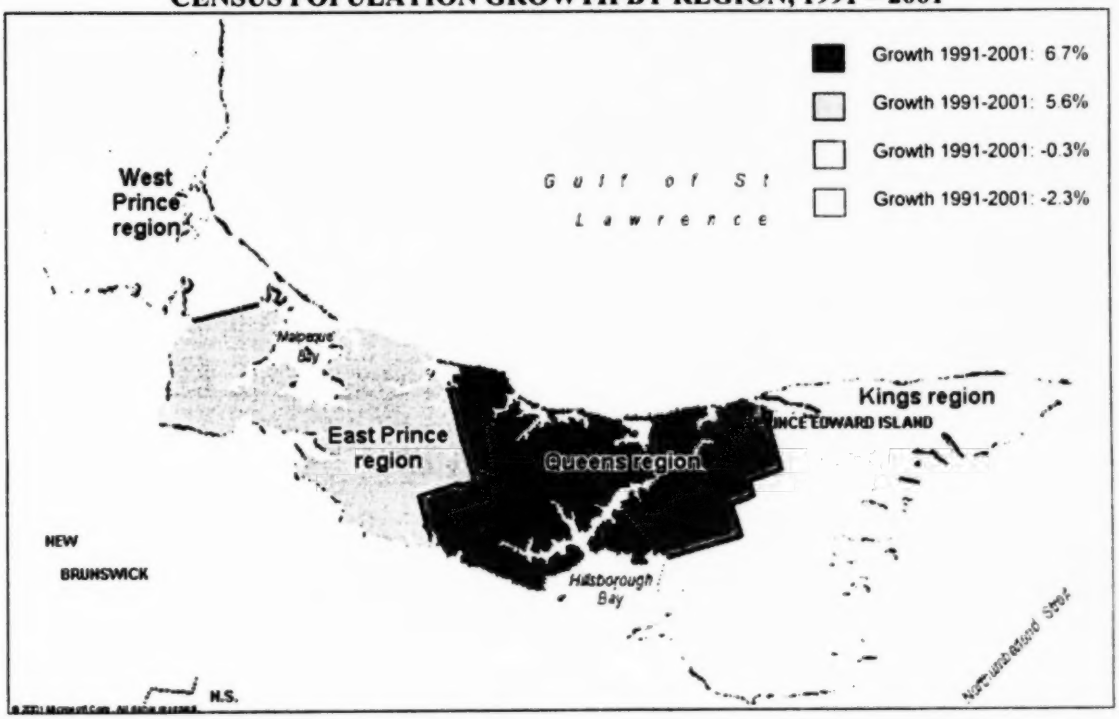
POPULATION OF THE REGIONS AND SUB-REGIONS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, 1991, 1996 and 2001

	1991 Census	1996 Census	2001 Census	Percentage change 1991-96	1996-01	1991-01
W. Prince region	14,603	14,546	14,261	-0.4	-2.0	-2.3
E. Prince region	31,255	32,729	32,997	4.7	0.8	5.6
Summerside	*13,636*	*14,525*	*14,654*	*6.5*	*0.9*	*7.5*
Rural East Prince	*17,619*	*18,204*	*18,343*	*3.3*	*0.8*	*4.1*
Queens region	62,484	65,426	66,686	4.7	1.9	6.7
Charlottetown	*31,541*	*32,531*	*32,245*	*3.1*	*-0.9*	*2.2*
Stratford	*5,427*	*5,869*	*6,314*	*8.1*	*7.6*	*16.3*
Cornwall	*4,053*	*4,291*	*4,412*	*5.9*	*2.8*	*8.9*
Rural Queens	*21,463*	*22,735*	*23,715*	*5.9*	*4.3*	*10.5*
Kings region	21,413	21,856	21,350	2.1	-2.3	-0.3
South Kings	*13,835*	*14,383*	*14,164*	*4.0*	*-1.5*	*2.4*
East Kings	*7,578*	*7,473*	*7,186*	*-1.4*	*-3.8*	*-5.2*
Total P.E.I.	129,765	134,557	135,294	3.7	0.5	4.3

Source: Statistics Canada, data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury

Map 1

CENSUS POPULATION GROWTH BY REGION, 1991 – 2001



Source: Statistics Canada, data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury

Map 1 shows population growth for the four regions of Prince Edward Island between 1991 and 2001. Two regions, East Prince and Queens showed positive growth during this period, while Kings and West Prince suffered population declines. A major factor supporting growth in the East Prince region was Summerside with 7.5 per cent growth between 1991 and 2001. In the Queens region rapid growth areas were Stratford (16.3 per cent), rural Queens (10.5 per cent), and Cornwall (8.9 per cent).

Forty-three per cent of the population lived in urban areas in 2001 compared to 42 per cent in 1991. The total urban population of Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown, Stratford, Cornwall, Summerside) increased by 5.4 per cent between 1991 and 2001, while most of the Island's 3.4 per cent growth in the rural population took place in the fringe areas around Charlottetown. However, 1996-2001 population growth slowed throughout Prince Edward Island, and Charlottetown itself was in decline.

c) Lots and Municipalities

The following section examines population growth for Prince Edward Island at the Census Subdivision level i.e. for lots (also known as townships) and municipalities. Fifty-two per cent of all municipalities and lots on Prince Edward Island experienced some degree of population growth between 1996 and 2001, compared to 76 per cent during 1991-1996.

Map 2 shows the twenty-one lots and municipalities whose population increased by 5 per cent or more between 1996 and 2001. Of these lots/municipalities, eleven are located in Queens County, mostly on the outskirts of the Greater Charlottetown area. Lennox Island experienced the largest population increase among Island municipalities at 17.6 per cents. In absolute terms Stratford expanded the most: from 5,869 persons in 1996 to 6,314 persons in 2001. Among the townships Lot 65 showed the largest absolute and percentage growth on the Island: from 1,595 persons in 1996 to 1,829 in 2001, an increase of 14.7 per cent.

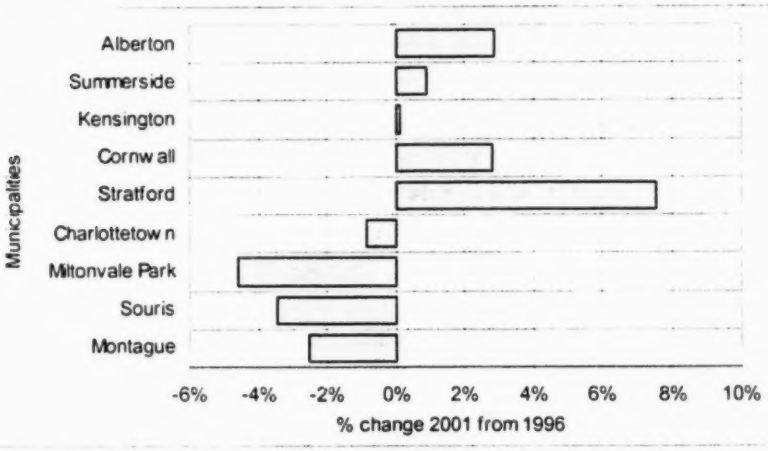
Map 3 shows the 42 lots and municipalities which experienced growth of 5 per cent or more during 1991-1996: 23 lots and municipalities were located in Queens County, 12 were found in Prince County, while 7 lots were in Kings County. Kinkora experienced the largest population increase among the municipalities at 26.9 per cent, while Lot 27 had the largest growth among the townships at 31.4 per cent. Employment associated with the construction of the Confederation Bridge was likely a significant factor in 1996 for these areas.

Maps 4 and 5 identify the lots and municipalities that experienced declining populations. Between 1996 and 2001 there were 51 lots and/or municipalities in decline on Prince Edward Island: 22 in Prince County; 11 in Queens County; and 18 in Kings County. This was up from 1991-1996, when 33 areas were in decline: 14 in Kings County; 6 in Queens County; and 13 in Prince County. The largest population decline at the community level in 1996-2001 occurred in Victoria with 24.7 per cent less persons than in 1996. Among the townships Lot 66 experienced the largest decline at 13.3 per cent.

Diagram 6 identifies population growth in Island municipalities with population over 1,000 during the period 1996-2001. As previously mentioned, Stratford experienced the largest growth at 7.6 per cent, while Miltonvale Park declined the most at -4.6 per cent. The population of Charlottetown fell 0.9 per cent. The population of these nine municipalities total 64,503, which represents 48 per cent of the Island's total population.

Diagram 6

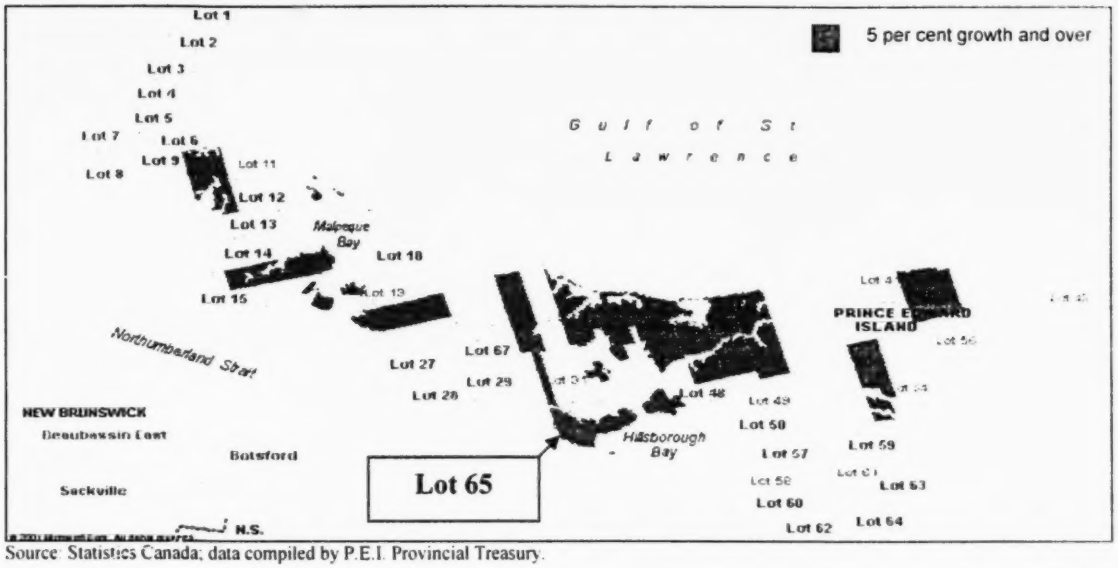
POPULATION GROWTH OF ISLAND MUNICIPALTIES WITH POPULATION OVER 1,000, 1996-2001



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Map 2

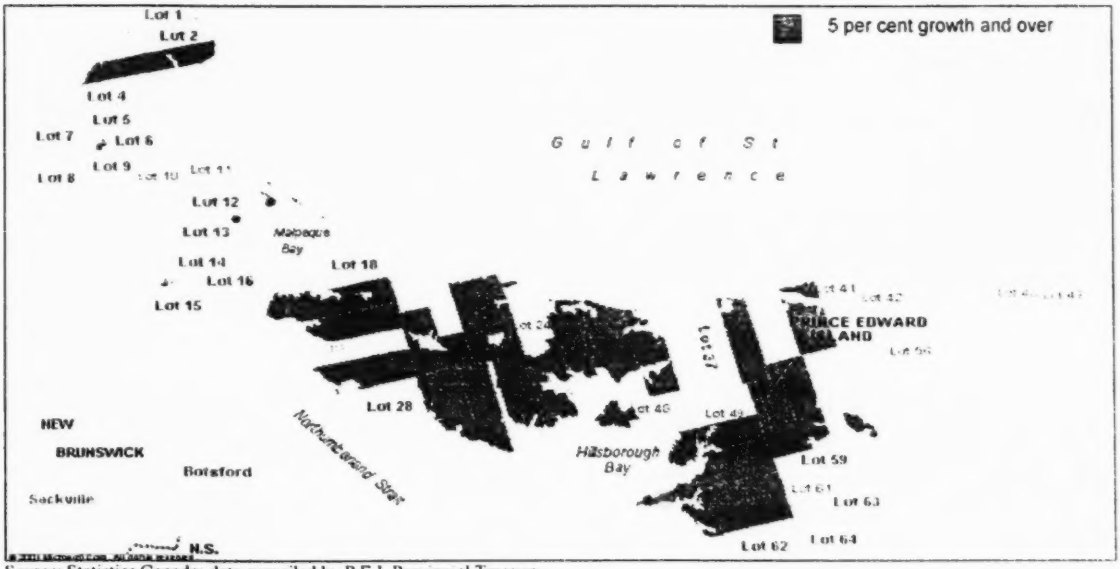
CENSUS POPULATION GROWTH OF FIVE PER CENT OR MORE CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS, 1996 – 2001



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Map 3

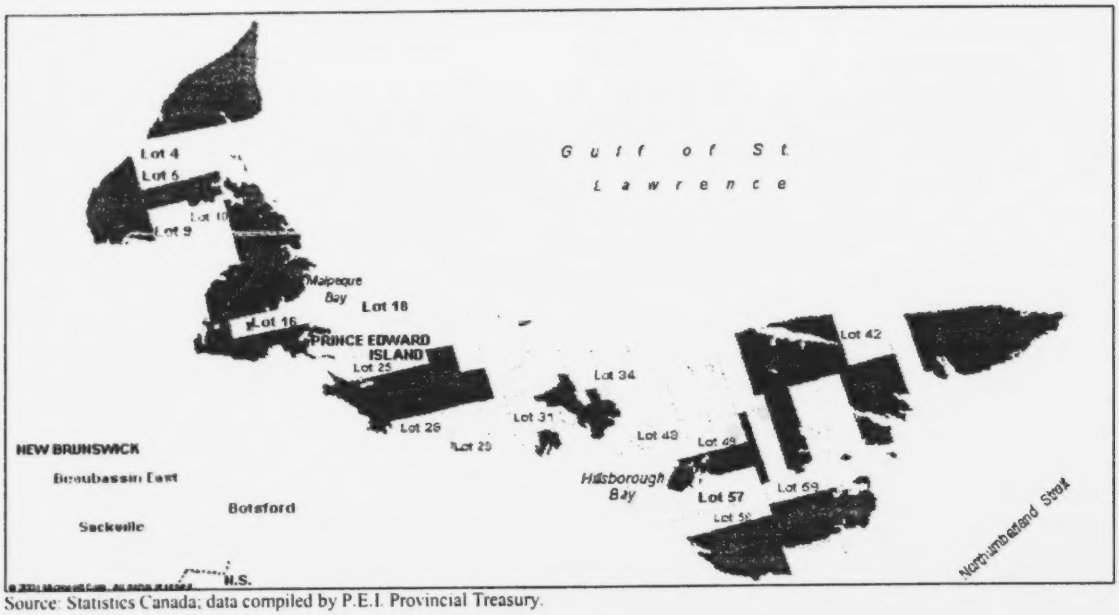
CENSUS POPULATION GROWTH OF FIVE PER CENT OR MORE CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS, 1991 – 1996



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Map 4

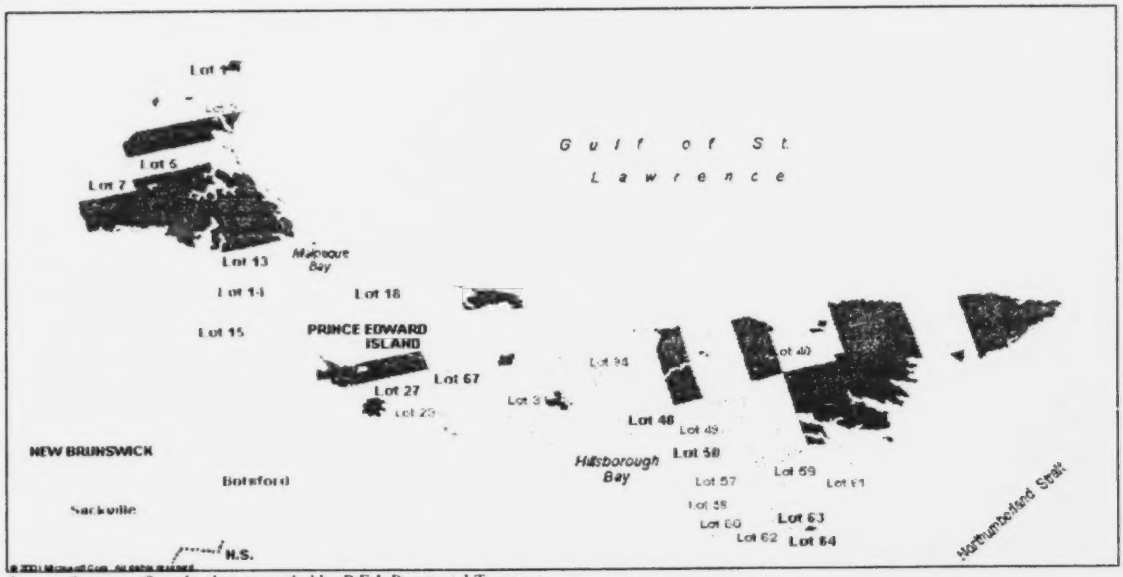
CENSUS POPULATION DECLINE
CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS, 1996 – 2001



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Map 5

CENSUS POPULATION DECLINE
CENSUS SUBDIVISIONS, 1991 – 1996



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

5. Population Change by Age and Gender

The following section examines population growth and changes in population shares by age and gender for Canada and its regions. For the purpose of this discussion, the population has been divided into four age groups: 0-4 years, 5-14 years, 15-64 years and 65 years and over. As illustrated in Table 6, the most striking event during 1996-2001 was the dramatic decline in the number children between the ages of 0-4 years. In 2001 there were 11.6 per cent fewer Canadian children between the ages of 0 and 4 than there were in 1996. The population share of this age group fell from 6.6 per cent to 5.7 per cent. Among the provinces, Newfoundland showed the largest decline in this age group at -19 per cent, while Quebec took second place with a decline of 17.5 per cent. In 2001, the Prairie provinces had the largest proportion of 0-4 year olds (6.3 per cent), while Newfoundland had the smallest proportion (4.8 per cent).

The number of children in Canada in the 5-14 years age group fell by 1.1 per cent between 1996 and 2001, while its share fell from 13.8 per cent to 13.4 per cent. The largest population decline in this age group occurred in Newfoundland (-19.2 per cent), followed by New Brunswick and Saskatchewan, where the number of 5-14 year old children fell by 7.6 per cent. Saskatchewan's proportion of 5-14 year old children was the highest in the country at 14.9 per cent, while Newfoundland had the smallest proportion at 12.5 per cent in 2001.

The declines among the 0-14 year olds in Canada were partially offset by growth in the population 15 years and older. The number of Canadians in the 15-64 year age group rose by 5 per cent between 1996 and 2001, while its population share increased from 67.3 per cent of the 1996 population to 68 per cent in 2001. The only province in decline was Newfoundland, where the 15-64 year old population dropped by 5.6 per cent. Alberta had the largest growth in this age group at 12.9 per cent.

Between 1996 and 2001 Canada's senior population expanded by 10.2 per cent increasing its population share from 12.2 per cent to 13 per cent. Alberta experienced the largest growth in the number of seniors at 15.5 per cent, although seniors represented only 10.4 per cent of its population, making it the smallest proportion of seniors in the country. The largest proportion was found in Saskatchewan at 15.1 per cent.

In 2001 there were 16.3 per cent fewer children below the age of 5 years on Prince Edward Island then there were in 1996. The number of 5-14 year olds declined by 5 per cent in that year. During the same period there were 2.3 per cent more Islanders between the age of 15 and 64 years, while the number of seniors increased by 6.3 per cent. The share of the 15-64 year age group rose from 65.4 to 66.6 per cent, the largest increase in Atlantic Canada. The Island population share of seniors increased from 13 per cent in 1996 to 13.7 per cent in 2001.

Table 6

POPULATION SHARES AND POPULATION CHANGE, 1996-2001
CANADA AND REGIONS (in percent)

	1996 CENSUS				2001 CENSUS				2001/1996 POP. CHANGE			
Province/Region:	**0-4 years**	**5-14 years**	**15-64 years**	**65 years and over**	**0-4 years**	**5-14 years**	**15-64 years**	**65 years and over**	**0-4 years**	**5-14 years**	**15-64 years**	**65 years and over**
Canada	6.6	13.8	67.3	12.2	5.7	13.4	68.0	13.0	-11.6	-1.1	5.0	10.2
Atlantic Region:	6.0	13.9	67.7	12.4	5.1	12.8	68.6	13.4	-16.1	-9.4	-0.8	6.2
Newfoundland	*5.6*	*14.3*	*69.3*	*10.8*	*4.8*	*12.5*	*70.4*	*12.3*	*-19.0*	*-19.2*	*-5.6*	*6.0*
Prince Edward Island	*6.7*	*14.9*	*65.4*	*13.0*	*5.6*	*14.1*	*66.6*	*13.7*	*-16.3*	*-5.0*	*2.3*	*6.3*
Nova Scotia	*6.1*	*13.7*	*67.1*	*13.1*	*5.2*	*12.9*	*67.9*	*13.9*	*-15.0*	*-5.4*	*1.0*	*6.3*
New Brunswick	*6.0*	*13.6*	*67.8*	*12.6*	*5.2*	*12.7*	*68.6*	*13.6*	*-15.4*	*-7.6*	*0.0*	*6.2*
Quebec	6.4	12.8	68.7	12.1	5.2	12.7	68.9	13.3	-17.5	-0.1	1.6	11.5
Ontario	6.8	13.8	67.0	12.4	5.9	13.7	67.5	12.9	-8.6	5.5	6.9	10.3
Prairie Region:	7.2	15.5	65.6	11.8	6.3	14.6	67.1	12.1	-7.9	-0.3	8.1	8.4
Manitoba	*7.2*	*14.7*	*64.4*	*13.7*	*6.3*	*14.6*	*65.2*	*14.0*	*-12.4*	*-0.5*	*1.7*	*2.8*
Saskatchewan	*7.1*	*16.0*	*62.2*	*14.7*	*6.2*	*14.9*	*63.8*	*15.1*	*-13.3*	*-7.6*	*1.3*	*1.3*
Alberta	*7.2*	*15.6*	*67.3*	*9.9*	*6.3*	*14.5*	*68.9*	*10.4*	*-4.0*	*2.6*	*12.9*	*15.5*
British Columbia	6.3	13.5	67.5	12.8	5.3	12.8	68.3	13.6	-11.8	-0.3	6.2	12.0

Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

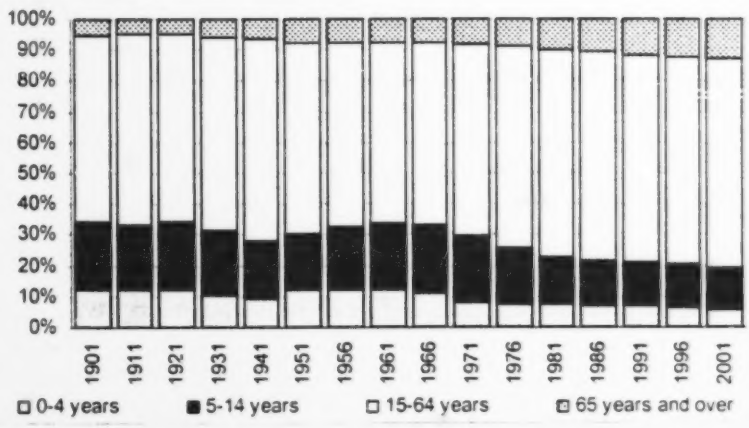
The population pyramids for 1996 and 2001 are shown in Diagram 8 and 9 and provide a graphic illustration of the Island population by age and gender. Noteworthy are two segments of the population: the 'baby-boom' generation and the population 90 years and over. The babyboom refers to that segment of the population that was born between 1947 and 1966. The age groups that make up the baby-boom generation have been highlighted in Diagrams 8 and 9.

In 1996 there were 37,690 baby-boomers aged 30-49 years, representing 28 per cent of the Island population. Five years later their number had increased to 41,450 and their share had risen to 31 per cent, presumably as a result of in-migration. The nonagenarian population rose by 18 per cent from 728 persons in 1996 to 860 in 2001. This represented a population share of 0.5 and 0.6 per cent, respectively.

Diagram 7 shows the composition of the Canadian population from 1901 to 2001 by ten-year periods, one hundred years of change. The most dramatic development during this period was the drop in the proportion of young Canadians in the population. While in 1901 12 per cent of the population was less than 5 years old and 22.4 per cent was between the ages of 5 and 14 years, in 2001 these shares had fallen dramatically to only 5.7 per cent and 13.4 per cent, respectively. In contrast to these declines, the share of 15-64 year old persons increased from 60.6 per cent in 1901 to 68 per cent in 2001, the largest proportion of working-age people during the last hundred years. The proportion of seniors almost tripled: from 5 per cent of the population in 1901 to 13 per cent in 2001.

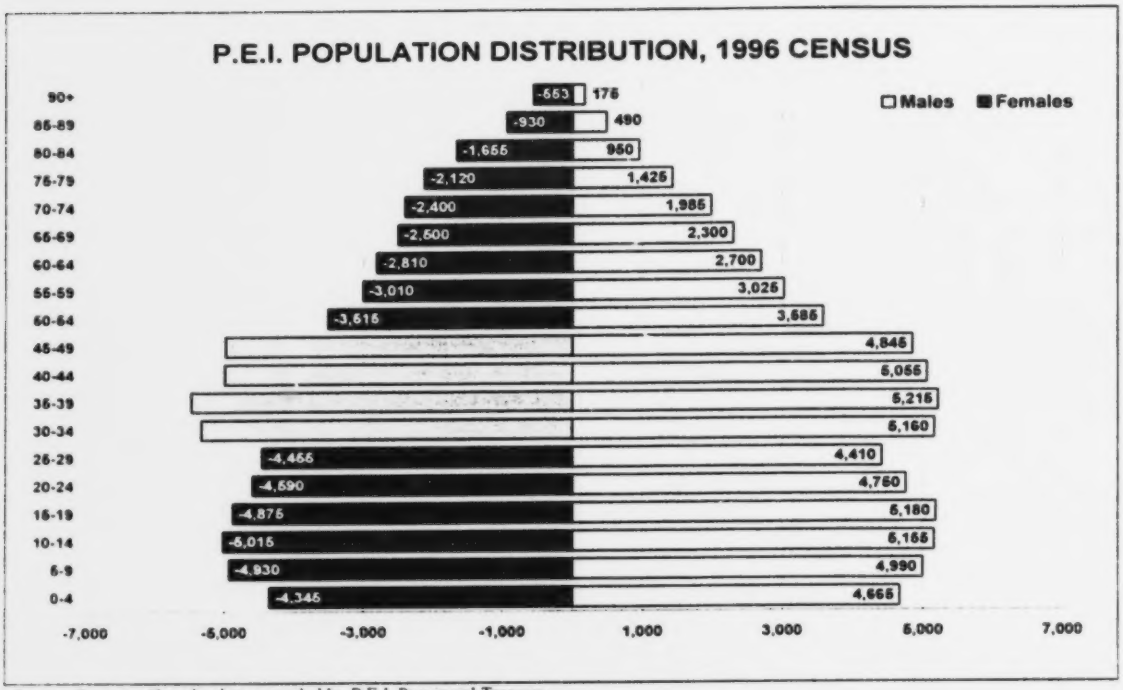
Diagram 7

CENSUS POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
CANADA, 1901-2001



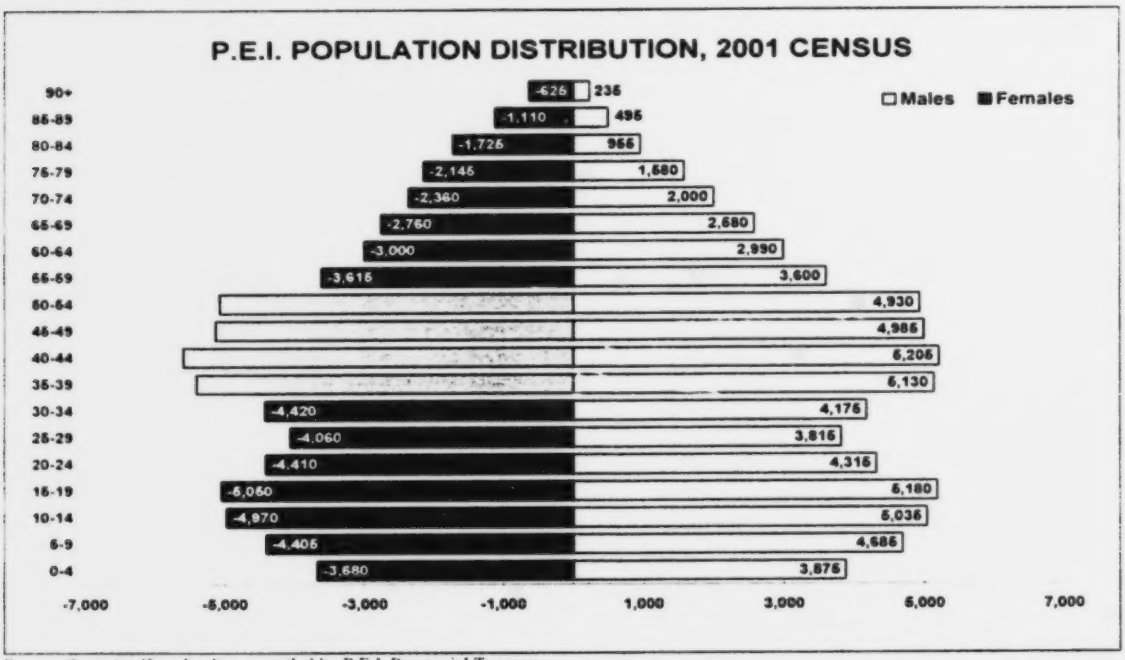
Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury

Diagram 8



Source: Statistics Canada, data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Diagram 9

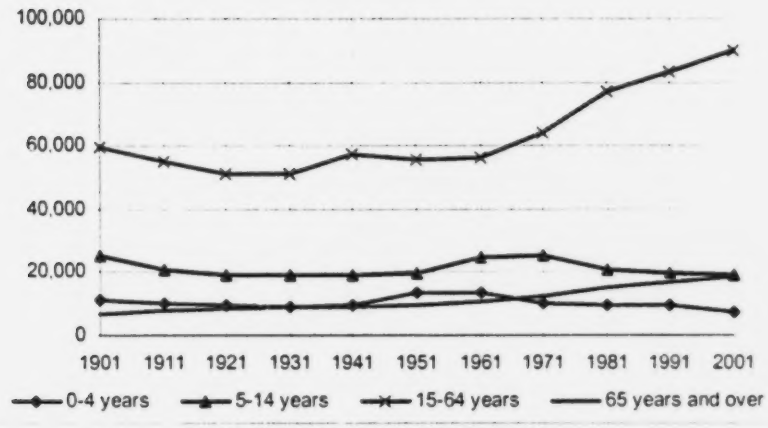


Source: Statistics Canada, data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

Prince Edward Island experienced even more dramatic changes in its population make-up during the last century. As illustrated in Diagram 10, the number of children in the 0-4 years age group rose from 11,403 in 1901 to its peak of 13,221 in 1961 before declining to 7,550 children in 2001, a decrease of 34 per cent from 1901. Representing 12.5 per cent of the Island population at the beginning of the century, one hundred years later this share had fallen to 5.6 per cent. The number of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years fell from 25,000 persons in 1901 to 19,095 in 2001, a decline of 24 per cent. Its share fell from 24.3 per cent of the population in 1901 to 14.1 per cent in 2001.

Diagram 10

P.E.I. CENSUS POPULATION 1901-2001
(by age groups)



Source: Statistics Canada, data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury

In contrast to this decline among young people, the number of persons between the ages of 15 and 64 years rose from 59,801 in 1901 to 90,075 in 2001, an increase of 51 per cent. This working-age group represented 57.9 per cent and 66.6 per cent of the total population, respectively. The number of Island seniors steadily climbed from 6,984 in 1901 to 18,570 in 2001, an increase of 166 per cent and accounting for 6.8 and 13.7 per cent of the population, respectively.

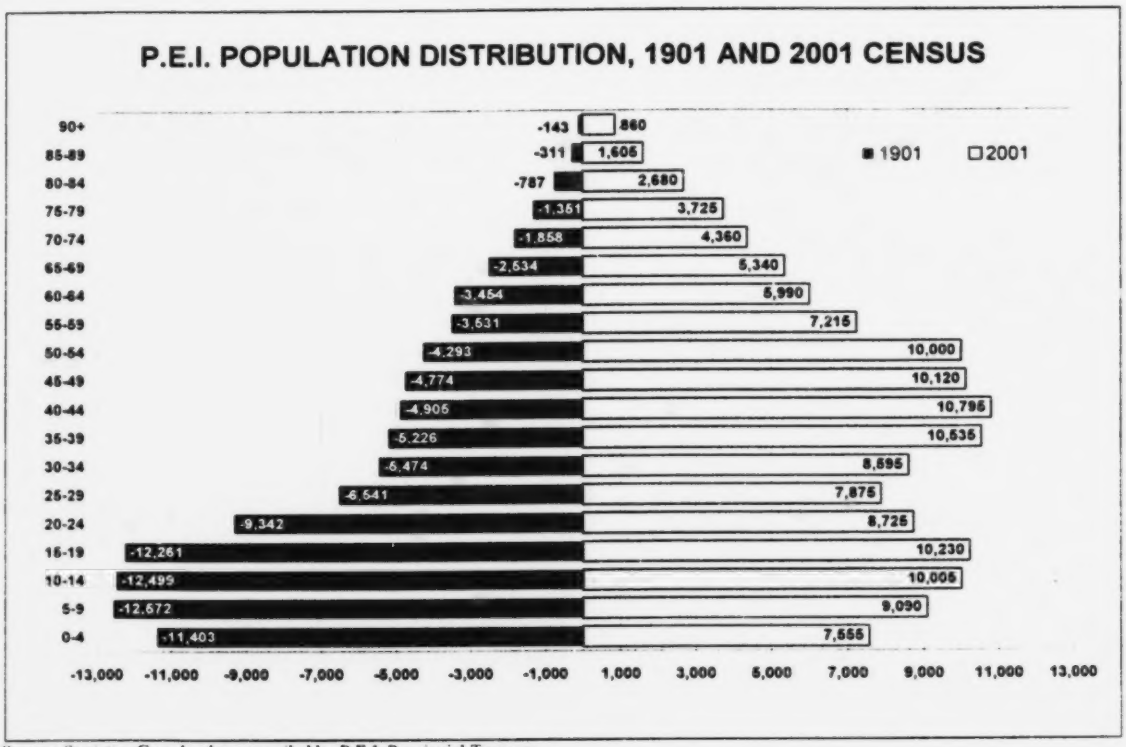
The population pyramid in Diagram 11 further illustrates the major change in the Island population distribution during the last hundred years. The Island population increased by 31 per cent from 103,259 persons in 1901 to 135,295 persons in 2001. This compares to a national population growth rate of 458 percent.

In 1901 there were 64,618 persons between the ages of 0 and 29 years living on Prince Edward Island, representing 63 per cent of the population. In 2001 this number was 53,480 or 40 per cent of the population, equivalent to 1941 when 53,560 persons were recorded in this age group.

These declines were offset by an increase of 124 percent in the number of persons aged 40 years and older during the period 1901-2001. In 1901 this group totaled 27,932 reaching 62,690 in 2001. Its share of the population increased from 27 per cent to 46 per cent.

There was a dramatic increase in the age group 65 years and over in 1901-2001, when their numbers increased by 166 percent, from 6,984 in 1901 to 18,570 in 2001. Their population share doubled from 6.8 per cent to 13.7 per cent during this period. The growth in the 80 years and older age group stands out in particular. In 1901 there were 1,241 persons in this age group. One hundred years later this number had increased to 5,145, a rise of 315 per cent. In 1901 females made up 52.1 per cent of this age group and by 2001 this proportion had increased to 67.2 per cent.

Diagram 11



Source: Statistics Canada; data compiled by P.E.I. Provincial Treasury.

6. Summary

According to the 2001 Census, the Canadian population grew by 4 per cent between 1996 and 2001. Measured over a ten-year period the national population grew by 9.9 per cent making it the smallest population increase of the century. The fastest growing provinces during 1996-2001 were Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia. The Island population increased by 0.5 per cent, while the populations of the other Atlantic provinces declined during 1996-2001.

On Prince Edward Island, the population of Queens County increased by 1.7 per cent in 1996-2001, thus continuing a trend of consistent positive growth since the 1930s. The fastest growing regions of P.E.I. were all located within Queens County: Stratford (7.6 per cent), rural Queens (4.3 per cent) and Cornwall (2.8 per cent). Population growth in Summerside mitigated the decline of 0.2 per cent in Prince County. The population of Kings County declined by 1.9 per cent.

All provinces experienced a decline in the number of 0-4 year olds between 1996 and 2001, while the number of 5-14 year old children fell in all provinces except Ontario and Alberta. Proportionally, in 1996 6.6 per cent of the Canadian population was less than 5 years old falling to 5.7 per cent in 2001, while the proportion of 5-14 year olds declined from 13.8 per cent to 13.4 per cent. The 15-64 year age group represented 67.3 per cent of the population in 1996 rising to 68 per cent in 2001. Seniors made up 12.2 per cent of the 1996 population and 13 per cent of the 2001 population.

On Prince Edward Island the population share of 0-4 year olds fell from 6.7 per cent in 1996 to 5.6 per cent in 2001, while the proportion of 5-14 year old Islanders fell from 14.9 per cent in 1996 to 14.1 per cent in 2001. The share of the 15-64 year age group rose from 65.4 to 66.6 per cent and the proportion of seniors increased from 13 per cent to 13.7 per cent.

During the last one hundred years the Island population grew by 31 per cent as compared to 458 per cent population growth nationally. The most striking aspect of this comparison is the shift from a very young population in 1901 to a much more mature population today. The number of persons between the ages of 0 and 29 years in 1901 was 64,618 or 63 per cent of the population. One hundred years later their number had fallen to 53,480 forming 40 per cent of the population. This was a decline of 17 per cent. The number of persons over the age of 40 years increased from 27,941 in 1901 to 62,690, an increase of 124 per cent. Their population share increased from 27 per cent to 46 per cent.

The number of Island children under 5 years of age was 33 per cent lower in 2001 than in 1901, while the number of young people between the ages of 5 and 14 years was 24 per cent less. In 2001 there were 51 per cent more persons between the age of 15 and 64 years than in 1901, while the number of Island seniors rose by 166 per cent.

Finally, it should be noted that all population estimates mentioned in this paper are subject to revision once adjustments for census coverage errors are published by Statistics Canada in 2003.

For more information regarding the 2001 Census or other population issues contact:

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